



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE
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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

LEE MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL WEAPONS CHARGE

Re: United States v. Peter GOURGUE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, William J. Hoover, Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), and Lee Police Chief Chester Murch, announced that Peter GOURGUE, 22, of Lee, NH, was convicted on December 17, 2004 of federal weapon possession charges.

GOURGUE entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Steven McAuliffe to an information charging him with being a drug user in possession of a Smith and Wesson 9mm handgun on May 31, 2004 in Lee, NH. The handgun and small quantities of marijuana and ecstasy pills were discovered in GOURGUE's vehicle during a DWI stop on May 31, 2004. Federal law prohibits drug users from possessing firearms.

GOURGUE was released subject to behavioral conditions to be supervised by the U.S. Department of Probation pending his sentencing hearing to be held in U.S. District Court on March 22, 2005. He faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this Office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of drug traffickers and unlawful drug users is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

The prosecution against GOURGUE, part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" (PSN) initiative, resulted from an investigation conducted by the Lee Police Department, the N.H Drug Task Force, and the U.S Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.